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Closed Captioning is an integral part of my life. Not only do I depend on it for news and entertainment purposes, it also helps my kids improve their reading skills. I strongly feel that the more people who come to realize the availability of Closed Captioning, the more important it will become in their lives. Even those who do not depend on Closed Captioning can benefit from its use. Such public places and noisy areas where there is a television are examples of where Closed Captioning can benefit a large number of people. It would be a great disservice not only to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing if Closed Captioning did not expand and improve, but an even greater disservice the public at-large.

I realize I am blessed to live in a country that provides services that allow people to access all areas of life. Many times I am told by many people who say it in a way that I should be entirely grateful and never complaining about any type of assistance, i.e. interpreters, telephone relay, captioning, etc.. It is such a fine line for me to be grateful, and to be demanding of better services. Yes I am entirely thankful for all the services at my disposal, but at the same time, am I not afforded the right to equality? How can I be equal with my peers if my peers control what I can and cannot have in terms of equal access?

This is the reason I feel strongly that ALL television programs require Closed Captioning and measures be taken that the services should be improved. Until I and millions of other Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals can truly be independent of interpreters and other communication access assistance, we will always have a need for Closed Captioning.